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SOURCE Osvobodhenie Anti-Communist 7, vol 1, No 8-9, 1950TRADE UNION REORGANIZATION IN BULGARIA

The main objective of the present Bulgarian trade unions is not to improve the worker's living conditions and defend his interests, but to fulfill the Five-Year Plan by incessantly prompting competitions, pledges, collective work agreements, etc., to boost plan fulfillment.

The Fifth Plenary Session of the Communist Party, held in March 1950, proclaimed that the work of the ORPS (General Workers' Trade Union) was unsatisfactory, and ordered a reorganization of the unions based on the Soviet principle of production. The greatest error of the unions was seen in chaotic and sporadic work methods. According to Todor Prakhov, ORPS Secretary, such methods prevailed throughout the enterprises; work was at a slow pace at the beginning of the month and at the end, the loss of time had to be compensated for by a feverish and storm-like activity entailing disorganization, higher costs, poor work standards, and ultimately, total disruption of work discipline.

A further analysis of Prakhov's report shows that competitive work is established on a purely formal basis; the workers receive printed forms stating their pledges, and, by signing, commit themselves to fulfill the pledged quotas. Every department and enterprise is provided in advance with increased quota requirements to be fulfilled by means of pledges. Voluntary commitments are nonexistent, which explains the fact that the workers regard these pledges with the utmost indifference. Thus, in the textile industry, production is steadily decreasing. In the G. Dimitrov Textile Plant, in January 1950 the plan was fulfilled by only 66.7 percent and in February by 71 percent. The same is true of many other enterprises of the textile industry. While it is true that 16,000 new workers have been enrolled during the past year, it must not be forgotten that 19,000 old workers have left the enterprises.

As usual, the Communists see the reason for every failure in the subversive activity of their enemies and Kostovites, insufficient adoption of Soviet methods, and past cooperation with Yugoslav trade unions and the all-Balkan trade-union conferences. But even after discounting all these errors, Communist self-criticism has to admit that industrial leadership has failed to enlist the cooperation of the workers in all phases of economic life.

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The plenum therefore agreed to reorganize the trade unions after the Soviet pattern; the existing trade-union associations have been suspended in favor of ORPS committees, and the 101 okoliya trade-union councils have been replaced by 14 okrug councils. This concentration process will be further implemented by production categories, i.e., all workers of one enterprise will be included in one trade-union organization. For example, the waiters, cooks, and musicians of a Khoremag government-owned stores, restaurants, etc., will all belong to the same trade union. Classifications will also be determined by the economic plan under which the work is performed: for example, construction workers employed at a dam project are transferred from the construction to the electrical workers' trade union, or forestry and lumber workers are included in the same union since they both are working under the Ministry of forestry's plan, etc.

However, according to the Sofia daily newspaper Trud of 10 May 1950, the results of the reorganization are far from gratifying and have mostly resulted in disorganization. The supervisors of the former okoliya associations have hurriedly left their work to find new jobs, without waiting for the reorganization. The cadres, so highly emphasized under the Communist system, have been disrupted, and plan fulfillment is seriously threatened.

This is one more indication that the workers of Communist countries are not supporting the Party.

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